Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend paragraph [0007] on page 3 as follows:

In order to achieve the objects, a heat setting composition is employed whose principal ingredients are a polyurethane prepolymer and a latent solidifying agent (hereinafter referred to as solidifier) obtained by deactivating a solid polyamine~~, as defined in the accompanying claim 1~~. A fluid mixture `a` will be prepared by dispersing a compressed gas throughout the heat setting composition. Then, the fluid mixture `a` is allowed to foam due to expansion of the gas and heated to or above a critical solidification temperature, thereby letting it solidify to give a strip material of a desired cross section.

Please amend paragraph [0008] on pages 3 and 4 as follows:

A first method of producing the elastic strip material just described does comprise the steps of preparing a heat setting composition whose principal ingredients are a polyurethane prepolymer and a latent solidifier obtained by deactivating a solid polyamine, wherein a fluid mixture `a` is formed by dispersing a compressed gas throughout the heat setting composition~~ as defined in the accompanying claim 2~~. At the next step, the fluid mixture `a` is extruded out from a nozzle (1a) of a resin extruder (1), so that an extruded stream of a desired diameter will immediately foam itself. This stream having not solidified yet will subsequently be guided into a heating zone (2) whose interior has been heated to or above a critical solidification temperature, so that the stream thus heated is allowed to solidify and simultaneously pressed into a desired peripheral shape while advancing through the heating zone (2). Finally, the foamed, solidified and pressed stream will be discharged from the heating zone (2) so as to be cooled down to an ambient room temperature.

Please amend paragraph [0009] on page 4 as follows:

A second method of producing the elastic strip material described above does comprise the steps of preparing a heat setting composition whose principal ingredients are a polyurethane prepolymer and a latent solidifier obtained by deactivating a solid polyamine, wherein a fluid mixture `a` is formed by dispersing a compressed gas throughout the heat setting composition ~~as defined in the accompanying claim 3~~. At the next step, the fluid mixture `a` is extruded out from a nozzle (1a) of a resin extruder (1), so that an extruded stream of a desired diameter will immediately foam itself. This stream having not solidified yet will subsequently be guided into a liquid heating zone (2) whose interior has been heated to or above a critical solidification temperature, so that the stream thus heated is allowed to solidify and simultaneously pressed into a desired peripheral shape while advancing through the heating zone (2). Finally, the foamed, solidified and pressed stream will be discharged from the liquid heating zone (2) so as to be cooled down to an ambient room temperature.

Please amend paragraph [0010] on pages 4 and 5 as follows:

A third method of producing the elastic strip material just described does comprise the steps of preparing a heat setting composition whose principal ingredients are a polyurethane prepolymer and a latent solidifier obtained by deactivating a solid polyamine, wherein a fluid mixture `a` is formed by dispersing a compressed gas throughout the heat setting composition ~~as defined in the accompanying claim 4~~. At the next step, the fluid mixture `a` is extruded out from a nozzle (1a) of a resin extruder (1), so that an extruded stream of a desired diameter will immediately foam itself. This stream having not solidified yet will subsequently be guided into a gaseous heating zone (2) whose interior has been heated to or above a critical solidification temperature, so that the stream thus heated is allowed to solidify and simultaneously pressed into a

desired peripheral shape while advancing through the heating zone (2). Finally, the foamed, solidified and pressed stream will be discharged from the gaseous heating zone (2) so as to be cooled down to an ambient room temperature.

Please amend paragraph [0011] on page 5 as follows:

From a further aspect ~~as defined in the claim 5~~, the apparatus provided herein for producing the elastic strip material may comprise a resin extruder (1), a liquid tank (21) having and cooperating with at least one rotor (22), a motor (23) for driving the rotor (22) to rotate in situ, and a heating bath (2A) including the liquid tank. The resin extruder (1) comprises a reservoir (11) for storing therein an amount of a heat-setting composition, a gas feeding pipe (12) for charging the reservoir with a compressed gas, and a nozzle (1a) for extruding a fluid mixture `a` to form a resin stream. The rotor (22) is constructed such that the resin stream of fluid mixture `a` effluent from the nozzle (1a) and having already foamed but not yet solidified will be guided into a hot liquid (2a) held in the liquid tank (21) and caused to advance through it. The heating bath (2A) has therein a trough (24) formed in and along the periphery of the rotor (22) so as to receive the resin stream of fluid mixture `a`, and a surface shaping member (25) disposed close to and facing the trough (24). The fluid mixture `a` will be heated in the heating bath (2A) so as to solidify therein and form a resin strip `b`. The heating bath (2A) further comprises an outlet guide (26) for directing the resin strip `b` towards the outside of the liquid tank (21).

Please amend paragraph [0012] on pages 5 and 6 as follows:

From a still further aspect ~~as defined in the claim 6~~, the apparatus provided herein for producing the elastic strip material may comprise a resin extruder (1), a gaseous heating chamber (41) having and cooperating with at least one rotor (42), a motor (43) for driving the rotor (42) to rotate in situ, and a heating booth (4) including the

heating chamber (41). The resin extruder (1) comprises a reservoir (11) for storing therein an amount of a heat-setting composition, a gas feeding pipe (12) for charging the reservoir with a compressed gas, and a nozzle (1a) for extruding a fluid mixture `a` to form a resin stream. The rotor (42) is constructed such that the resin stream of fluid mixture `a` effluent from the nozzle (1a) and having already foamed but not yet solidified will be exposed to a hot gaseous interior (2b) of the gaseous heating chamber (41) and caused to advance through it. The heating chamber (41) has therein a trough (44) formed in and along the periphery of the rotor (42) so as to receive the resin stream of fluid mixture `a`, and a surface shaping member (45) disposed close to and facing the trough (44). The fluid mixture `a` will be heated in the heating chamber (41) so as to solidify therein to form a resin strip `b`. The heating booth (4) further comprises an outlet guide (46) for taking the resin strip `b` out of the rotor (42) and directing it to the outside of the heating chamber (41).

Please amend paragraph [0020] on page 9 as follows:

The present invention may be carried out in any of the manners as summarized here and below. The liquid heating zone ~~as set forth in claim 3~~ may not necessarily be composed of hot water, but any heating oil or any molten resin may be used insofar as they are of a poor affinity to and poor compatibility with the fluid mixture `a` of a heat-setting composition. In order to heat the liquid forming the heating zone (2) to and maintain it at a desirable elevated temperature, it is convenient to use a heater (28) (sometimes called pipe heater) that is easy to place in the liquid of heating zone (2). Alternatively, a heating liquid from an external hot water source may be fed to this zone in a continuous and/or circulating manner.

Please amend paragraph [0021] on pages 9 and 10 as follows:

The gaseous heating zone (2) ~~as set forth in claim 4~~ may be filled with a hot air from a blower (47). Alternatively, radiation energy from a heater (48) or infrared lamp may be made use of, or electromagnetic radiation from an antenna (49) may be utilized for dielectric heating. Further, the hot gaseous interior of heating zone need not to stand alone, but any mist may be sprayed into it so as to keep the interior in an unsaturatedly or saturatedly humidified state.

Please amend paragraph [0022] on page 10 as follows:

The rotor (22) ~~as defined in claim 5~~ may have agitating blades (29) attached to either or both of its side faces as shown in FIGS. 4 and 5 so that rotation of such a rotor (22) will automatically stir the hot liquid (2a). Alternatively, an agitating fan may be disposed in the liquid tank (21) for the same purpose.

Please amend paragraph [0023] on page 10 as follows:

The at least one rotor (22) may either be a single rotor placed in the liquid tank (21) as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, or a few or more rotors coaxial with each other as illustrated in FIG. 6. In the latter case, the rotors (22) arranged side by side may be of the same or different diameters. In a further example shown in FIG. 11, several pairs of rotor (22) and surface shaping member (25) facing it are disposed longitudinally of the fluid mixture `a` of heat setting composition. In this case, the surface shaping action of those rollers and members will be imparted to the heat setting composition vertically running downwards. The rotor (42) ~~defined in claim 6~~ may either be formed as an endless conveyor, or as a modified type chain conveyor, as will be seen in FIGS. 7 to 10. Configuration of the trough (44) for receiving and guiding the stream of fluid mixture `a` of said composition, as well as configuration of the shaping member (45) facing the trough, may be any one of or any combination of various options.

Please amend paragraph [0024] on page 10 as follows:

Further, the surface shaping member (25, 45) ~~respectively defined in claims 5 and 6~~ may preferably be rollers. Such rollers will exert merely light rolling friction to the strip material being produced, thereby making smooth its finished surface. However, any stationary spatulas may substitute for the rollers so as to be in a frictional contact with said strip material being produced. The outlet guides (26, 46) may also be rollers that rotate on but not injure the surface of a resin strip `b` just finished, although any frictional channel-shaped pieces or tools may substitute well for such roller guides.

Please amend paragraph [0025] on page 11 as follows:

Now, an apparatus in accordance with a first embodiment will be described in detail, referring to FIGS. 1 to 3, in which Fig. 1 is a side elevation of the apparatus shown in its entirety but partially in cross section, FIG. 2 is a fragmentary and cross-sectional front elevation, and FIG. 3 is perspective view of a resin strip `b` as produced using this apparatus.

Please amend paragraph [0026] on page 11 as follows:

For convenience of description, the apparatus itself will be discussed at first. A cylindrical member at upper regions in FIGS. 1 and 2 is a resin ~~ex truder~~ extruder 1 having a cylindrical reservoir 11 for storing therein a heat-setting composition detailed below. This extruder has two gas feeding pipes 12 and an extrusion nozzle 1a, through which a fluid mixture `a` of the composition exudes to form a downward stream. The gas pipes 12 connected to side peripheral portions of reservoir 11 introduce a compressed gas into the heat-setting composition, so as to foam it subsequent to extrusion.